

GREENBELT News Review

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JULY 21, 2011

Task Force Seeks Community Center in Part of Old Middle School

by James Giese

In an interim report, the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force has recommended to the Greenbelt City Council that a part of the old Greenbelt Middle School be renovated, acquired and managed by the city in order to operate or sponsor a comprehensive community center. On July 13 council met with task force members in a worksession to hear a presentation of the report and to ask questions.

Council has also set a second worksession for July 25 to review the report further and consider a course of action. Council expects to make a formal recommendation to the Prince George's Board of Education at its August 15 meeting.

The expedited time table follows a request by Paul Taylor, Capital Improvements Program director of the Prince George's County Public Schools system. The county has budgeted \$6,000,000 for renovation and/or demolition of the old school building.

This amount might be more or less depending on the final cost for the new middle school now under construction on another part of the school property. At the meeting it was reported that Taylor prides himself on bringing school construction costs under budget.

Taylor has requested a decision by August on what to do with the old building, a year before the new school will be completed and the old school vacated. This timing would facilitate architectural planning and engineering relating to the old building so renovation can begin as soon as the school is vacated. It will still be several more years before the building will become usable for other purposes.

(When the Board of Education vacated the old North End School, now the site of Greenbelt Elementary, it did not resolve what to do with the empty structure for a long time, during which a water main burst in the unheated building, flooding the

boiler room and destroying the building's heating system.)

City Costs

While the school renovation will go a long way to making the building reusable, it will not cover all anticipated costs. For example, there are not plans to install an elevator for compliance with the American Disabilities Act (\$100,000). Other modifications may also be needed for possible new uses of the building.

Should the city acquire the building, it would have to undertake such improvements at added capital costs, requiring a bond issue which can only be authorized if approved by city voters at a bond referendum which probably could not be held earlier than the next city election in November.

In addition, acquiring the building will require city maintenance. The task force has recommended two alternatives, both of which propose demolition of a large part of the existing structure

See **TASK FORCE**, page 6

Can't Take Greenbelt Out Of Outstanding Citizen

by Virginia Beauchamp

"You can take the man out of Greenbelt but you can't take Greenbelt out of the man." Nothing could be truer than that characterization of last year's Outstanding Citizen, James K. Giese.

Although he and his wife, Bernina (Bernie), had left Greenbelt for a new home in the retirement community of Collington in nearby Mitchellville, they were back once more for the opening ceremony of the Labor Day Festival, which both had attended for decades.

As longtime city manager and, after retirement, devoted reporter and board member of this paper, Giese knows virtually everything there is to know, and almost everyone in this city. In one sense you could hardly keep the two of them away.

As he himself has said, "Once an active Greenbelter, being active gets to be a habit." He was



James Giese

referring not only to on-going participation in this city – 15 minutes away from Collington – but also to the greater world that

See **GIESE**, page 10

Council Briefed on Current Stakes Of WMATA Development Plan

by Mary Willis Clarke

The Greenbelt City Council met with representatives of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on Monday July 18 to receive an update on the current status of the development planned for the nearly 80 acres owned by WMATA adjacent to the Greenbelt Metro Station. Five members of council participated; Emmett Jordan and Leta Mach were unable to attend.

After reviewing the history of what had been anticipated as a "billion dollar" majority-retail mixed-use transit oriented development, Nat Bottigheimer, assistant general manager in WMATA's Department of Planning and Joint Development, and WMATA Maryland Government Relations Officer Charlie Scott reviewed the history of planning for development of the WMATA property adjacent to the Greenbelt Metro station. Bottigheimer confirmed information previously reported by the News Review (March 31 and June 23) that WMATA has extended its Joint Development Agreement with Metroland Developers LLC for an additional three years. The extension, according to Bottigheimer, is commensurate with the length of time from September 2008 that the WMATA Board refrained from

any action involving development of the site after news reports of FBI search warrants served on individuals associated with the potential developer. The parties expect that Metroland will now seek a major federal tenant for office space to be constructed on the site. The previous retail oriented project is no longer under consideration. If the hoped-for federal tenancy does not materialize, the agreement will terminate in March 2014.

Bottigheimer stated that he knew of no specific solicitation for federal office space which might be issued in the time period. However, Bottigheimer indicated that WMATA and state and county officials engage in on-going discussions with General Services Administration (the agency responsible for procuring office space for the federal government) about the desirability of Prince George's County Metro stations as prime candidates for major federal government tenants.

Bottigheimer told council that WMATA's new policy of active participation in the development process would now apply to the Greenbelt Metro development project under the Revised Joint Development Agreement. WMATA has moved from its previous passive role in transit-oriented de-

velopment adjacent to its stations and is now taking an active role in the planning process. This new more active participation by WMATA is one reason he and Scott appeared before council at the work session

Concerns

Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked about any continuing participation in the project by individuals who have pleaded guilty to various crimes reportedly related to securing Prince George's County development approvals. The referenced individuals are reportedly associated with a corporate affiliate (sharing some common ownership interests) of Metroland. The affiliate, Greenbelt Metropark LLC, is developing a site adjacent to the WMATA site and the approvals associated with the criminal activity are reported to be related to that adjacent site.

Bottigheimer assured council that the principals of Metroland have been very clear that no one with criminal involvement will be part of the development team. Metroland has divorced itself from any of the individuals criminally charged. Bottigheimer stated that participation by the wrongdoers would be an

See **WMATA**, page 6

GHI Names Eldon Ralph Its New General Manager

by Sue Krofchik

Tokey Boswell, president of the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) board of directors, called the July 14 meeting to order with the usual tap of the gavel. The agenda was approved, as usual, and as mandated. If anyone's mind was wandering, what happened next swiftly and surely brought them to attention.

Boswell stood, banged the gavel with great authority and, smiling, with a booming voice declared, "I have an announcement to make! The board has offered and Eldon Ralph has accepted the position of general manager of GHI effective De-

cember 12." Applause filled the room. Ralph, too, smiled then said, "I am excited and very, very happy and grateful for the opportunity." He then pledged to do his very best on behalf of the Cooperative.

Energy filled the room and the 10-item agenda was tackled. Bidding to hire a firm for the actual construction work for the pilot project was referred back to committee and the addition maintenance task force was asked to continue evaluating the existing and optional addition maintenance

See **GHI**, page 12

What Goes On

Thursday, July 21,

7 p.m., Second Greenbelt Metro Area and Md. 193 Corridor Sector Plan Workshop, Greenbelt Youth Center

Friday, July 22

7 p.m., Scholarship Show, Community Center Gym

Saturday, July 23

9 a.m. to noon, Donation Drop-off, Parking Lot behind Municipal Building

Monday, July 25

8 p.m., City Council Worksession on Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Report, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov.

Tuesday, July 26

7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES), Community Center

Thursday, July 28

8 p.m., City Council Worksession, Quarterly Transit Meeting, Municipal Building

Saturday, July 30

9 a.m. to noon, Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard

Letters to the Editor

Clarification?

I thank GHI board member Laura Moore for her response to my letter. My letter to the GNR was effective in obtaining for the first time information about the rehab costs from GHI. However, there seems to be a problem with the figures provided.

Ms. Moore is incorrect in stating that I gave misinformation in my letter. I said that an estimate of \$25,000 per pilot home was provided in a buildings committee meeting by the staff member planning the rehab. That figure is correct and is included in minutes or a summary of a buildings committee meeting. Furthermore, in a GHI board meeting in 2010 I asked a GHI board member and buildings committee member if \$25,000 was a fair per home pilot estimate and he agreed that it was.

Apparently that number has come down a little, with the total cost decreasing from \$700,000 to \$510,396 and the cost per unit decreasing from \$25,000 to \$18,228. As for the breakup of the cost into those covered by the reserve fund and those not covered by the fund, I was aware of that but omitted it for the sake of brevity. I will address it here.

Ms. Moore states that the portion each member will be asked to cover is \$9,125, with the remaining \$9,103 covered by the members' reserve fund. However, there is a problem with those numbers. There is \$8,000,000 in the members' reserve fund and some portion of that is dedicated to infrastructure replacement. Therefore, I will estimate that \$6,000,000 is available for the upgrade. Given that there are 1,600 units in GHI, this leaves \$3,750 available per unit, far less than the \$9,103 required, with a difference of \$5,353. It is not clear where this amount will come from but the likely source is the membership. The total amount each member would be asked to contribute would then equal \$14,478.

Suppose for the sake of argument that my above analysis is wrong and that the contribution required per member turns out

to be \$9,125, as stated by Ms. Moore. This would be more acceptable than the numbers I first heard, since the individual cost of the pilot program to each member would be \$160 instead of \$438 and in the event the full rehab is rejected the free upgrades provided to the pilot units by the rest of the members would effectively cost \$9,125, instead of \$25,000. But the \$255,511 projected for pilot insulation upgrades to 28 units could still be spent in ways which benefit all members, such as the examples mentioned in my letter.

Absent from Ms. Moore's letter was a clear response to the main point of my letter, which is that members should decide how to spend the member's reserve fund, at least in the case of insulation upgrades to a limited number of homes. She touched on the issue in stating that "the Board of Directors proposes that \$255,511 be borne by the full membership." Proposes to whom? The membership? If so, this is the first public mention of such a proposal. Does this mean that the members will be allowed to determine whether they provide \$255,511 to the 28 pilot homes from the reserve fund that might not be reimbursed? Will there be a vote on this matter?

Again, I appreciate Ms. Moore providing the first rehab cost figures to come from the GHI Board, staff or buildings committee, in spite of the discrepancies I noted. Now members know that upgrades requiring contributions of at least \$9,125 per member are being considered and possibly tested by GHI. They can now begin deciding whether they want to pay for and implement the proposed program.

Thomas Moran

Re-certifying Yard Plats

Members of the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. co-operative should know that a certified yard plat can be re-certified with different boundaries. This may or may not be a good thing.

Here is how our yard at 9G Ridge Road, an end unit, is being re-certified: 1. GHI maintenance staff identified a need for an access way for trucks through our yard. (GHI, city and contractor trucks have been driving through our yard for years.) 2. GHI maintenance staff drew a new yard plat and requested that the GHI board approve it. 3. The GHI board sent the new yard plat to their Ad-Hoc Yard Line Committee. The GHI board chairman instructed the Yard Line Committee chairwoman that the committee was not to consider any other access way. 4. The Yard Line Committee voted to approve the staff-drawn yard line plat and sent it back to the GHI board.

Let us assume that the GHI board re-certifies the yard line plat, which removes land from the yard and re-classifies it as common area. If they do, does certification mean anything? On the other hand, is there a mechanism for members, the GHI board or the GHI staff to correct oversights or request changes?

During the July 5 meeting of the Yard Line Committee, which I attended, committee members discussed our yard plat. During the discussion, I heard these points made: that there is no procedure for re-certifying an already-certified yard plat; that

See LETTERS, page 11

Corrections

In last week's Our Neighbors birth announcement for Adyson Mae Kerdock, the spelling of her aunt Kristina was incorrect.

Scores were inadvertently left out of the Senior Greenbelt softball team report last week. The team swept two games from Bowie Bronze, 15-1 and 15-7.



Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee, Inc.

NOMINATION FORM Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen

Submit this form or a letter by Monday, August 1 to:
Robert Zugby, Chair
94 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770

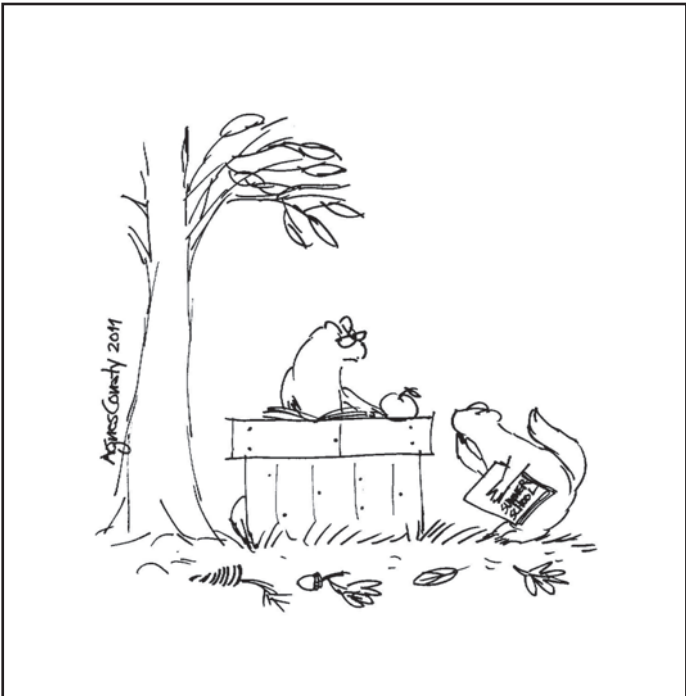
Name of Nominee _____
Address _____

Attach a statement (preferably printed or typed) which explains why the nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen. Possible subjects include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time; specific accomplishments during each period of service; the impact on Greenbelt or on people within the city; and personal qualities which make the nominee special. Award is for volunteer (unpaid) work only. Supporting printed material will be accepted but is not required. Testimonials by others as to the person's good works will be helpful.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later, but no later than the August 1st deadline.

Nominated By:			
Name(s) (please print)	Signature(s)	Phone	

Grin Belt



"Ma'am, my doctor asked me to tell you that I'm allergic to bad grades"

On Screen

A Harrowing Search

Opening Friday, July 22 at Old Greenbelt Theatre, "Incendies" (French for fires) takes Jeanine and Simon Marwan, twins in their 20s, from Canada to the Middle East at their dead mother's behest to find their father – who they thought was dead – and a brother they didn't know existed. The twins, per the mother's will, must deliver her letters to father and brother so they can receive a letter themselves from her. Along the arduous way, an Arab in a keffiyah declares, "Sometimes it's better not to know." Adapted from a play by Wajdi Mouawad, the intense film is directed by Canadian Denis Villeneuve. In French and Arabic with English subtitles.

Running time: 130 minutes. Rated R for violence and some obscenity.

– Eli Flam

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Altoria Bell Ross, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$40/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF JULY 22

Incendies

(R)

Friday

*4:45, 7:30, 9:55

Saturday

*2:15, *4:45, 7:30, 9:55

Sunday

*2:15, *4:45, 7:30

Monday - Thursday

*5, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50

Tuesday is Bargain Day. All Seats Only \$6.50.

Now accepting Visa, Discover and MasterCard for ticket sales only.
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pandgtheatres.com

Community Events

GHI Notes

Friday, July 22, Offices Closed. Maintenance emergency service available only (call 301-474-6011).

Sunday, July 24, noon, Pre-purchase orientation – GHI Board Room

Monday, July 25, 7 p.m., Board training – Board Room

Wednesday, July 27, 7 p.m., Buildings/Addition Maintenance Task Force joint meeting – Board Room

Monday, August 1, 7:15 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room

Friday, August 5, Offices Closed. Maintenance emergency service available only (call 301-474-6011).

Note: The last regularly scheduled board meeting for the summer will be August 18. Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

ACE Science Clubs Meet Next Week

The next Greenbelt Children's ACE Science Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Center. Another meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. Free to all Greenbelt children ages 8 to 14, the ACE Science Club features hands-on experiments and fun facts about science, technology, engineering, math, nature, life and the universe. This month's topic is Fluids, introducing the concepts of viscosity, lift, drag and entrainment.

The club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Greenbriar and the fourth Thursday at the Greenbelt Community Center. For more information call Wendy Wexler at Greenbelt CARES, 301-345-6660.

Local Therapist Gets Hand Certification

Allsports Physiotherapy Associates' physical therapist Marla Miranian, who has been with the practice for seven years, has obtained specialized qualification as a Certified Hand Therapist by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC), expanding the services available to patients.

HTCC is the only organization granting hand therapy certification in more than 10 countries. Requirements for certification include at least five years of clinical experience as a therapist, a minimum of 4,000 hours of direct practice in hand therapy and completion of training in advanced clinical skills and theory in upper limb rehabilitation.

Miranian obtained her master's degree in physical therapy from George Washington University and has worked in outpatient orthopedics ever since. Over the past five years she has focused on hand and upper extremity patients and looks forward to working with them while continuing to treat sports and orthopedic patients.

Allsports Physiotherapy Associates is located at 7505 Greenway Center Drive; telephone 301-474-6505.

Cajun Jam to Be Held at New Deal

On Wednesday, July 27 a free Cajun Jam will be held at the New Deal Café from 7 to 9:30 p.m. for dancers, musicians and listeners. Beginners are welcome.

For more information visit <http://www.newdealcafe.com/>.

Free Pool Guest Admission Day

On Friday, July 22 one free guest will be admitted to the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center with each full-price admission. The Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center is at 101 Centerway. Indoor pool hours are 6 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the outdoor pool.

Crafts, Cooking Demo At Farmers Market

On Sunday, July 24 at 11 a.m. in addition to the usual fresh farm offerings the Greenbelt Farmers Market will present a free cooking demonstration and a kids' craft project.

Local chef Rita Calvert will cook grass-fed pork chops in a nectarine glaze, using fresh ingredients at hand. Marketgoers are invited to watch her cook, ask questions, check out her new book and sample this dish made by "The Grass-Fed Gourmet."

The market, at the corner of Crescent and Southway behind the New Deal Café, runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features summer fruits, vegetables and herbs, as well as eggs, goat cheese, seafood, meats, breads, ice creams and other foods from local vendors.

For more information email info@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org.

Greenbriar Board To Meet Wednesday

The Greenbriar Community Association (GCA) Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, July 27 at 6 p.m. in the Terrace Room. Members from Greenbriar and Glen Oaks are welcome to attend.

Quarterly Transit Meeting Is July 28

Transit Riders United-Greenbelt (TRU-G) is urging all concerned with public transportation to be at the quarterly transit meeting on Thursday, July 28 at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building. The meeting will be a worksession of the Greenbelt City Council, with the county, WMATA and TRU-G to discuss pros and cons of the bus service changes made last December.

All are asked to bring comments and ideas to this meeting and to express their opinions of the Greenbelt bus service.

Limited rides to the meeting are available by emailing trugreenbelt@gmail.com. For more information subscribe to the TRU-G listserv by sending an email to trugeesubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Beltway Lanes To Be Closed

Up to three nearby lanes on the Capital Beltway's inner loop, it is reported, will be closed beginning sometime between 8 and 10 p.m. and lasting until 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday nights through August while Greenbelt's Kenilworth Avenue bridge is rehabilitated. The project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2012.

Suckow Is Speaker On Space Station

The July meeting of the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will be held on Thursday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 at the Greenbelt Community Center.

The speaker is Elizabeth Suckow, an archivist in the History Office at NASA Headquarters, who will talk about the "Past, Present and Future of the International Space Station."

Suckow is a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College (B.A., American history) and the American University (M.A., American history with a specialty in the history of science and technology).

There is no admission charge; all are invited.

ASG Star Party On Saturday

Everyone is invited to join the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) for a star party Saturday evening, July 23 at the City of Greenbelt Observatory at Northway Fields. In addition to the observatory telescope, several members will share personal telescopes and binoculars for the enjoyment of all. Observing will begin as soon as it is dark enough, around 9 p.m.

Objects to be observed include the planets Venus, Saturn and Mars. Several nice star clusters and nebulae may also be seen. ASG members will also be available to answer questions and provide advice about getting started in this hobby.

The star party will be cancelled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy. Attendees are asked to park in the ball field lot at the bottom of the hill unless bringing a telescope.



Co-op Food Demo, Tasting Wednesday

Wednesday, July 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. the Co-op will offer a food demonstration and tasting of fresh corn fritters with a raw summer peach chutney. In addition, there will be a complimentary wine tasting at the same time.

July 27 is also patron appreciation day, with five percent savings on purchases.

Children to Learn About Preservation

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture will offer a free program to 8 to 11 year olds. Using the theme of discover, preserve and celebrate, participants will be introduced to segregation in the 1950s.

First, they will read a story, "Ruth and the Green Book," by Calvin Ramsey.

Then, to investigate and be a conservator, participants will wear cotton gloves as they explore authentic artifacts from the 1950s. After recording their observations, they will determine a preservation plan for each object.

They will keep their gloves and activity book, which they can use to preserve their own family history.

Each branch library participating will have a different program date. The Greenbelt library's date is Tuesday, July 26 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m. Those interested in taking part must reserve a spot as only a limited number can be accepted. Call to reserve a place as soon as possible at 301-345-5800. Also ask to reserve a copy of "Ruth and the Green Book."

Smell Gas?

(Sulfur or rotten eggs)

Call Washington Gas Light

800-752-7520 or 911

At the Library Storytimes

On Wednesdays and Thursdays a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props.

Wednesday, July 27, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages three to five years, limit 20 children.

Thursday, July 28, 10:30 a.m., Toddler Time for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 children.

Pick up a free ticket for the Storytime events at the information desk.

Special Program

Saturday, July 30, 2 p.m., for children 6 to 12 years old – Slim Harrison: Sunnyland Music. (This program is also suitable for pre-schoolers).

Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.

Adults/Seniors: \$6.50

Children: \$6.00

ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON
ON SATURDAY \$5.00

ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.

Adults: \$8.50

Students/Military: \$7.50

Children: \$6.00

Seniors: \$6.50

R = ID Required

(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

Week of JULY 22

FRI – SAT

Horrible Bosses, R (!)

11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20

Winnie the Pooh, G

11:10, 1:10, 3, 5:10, 7

Bad Teacher, R

9:10

Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows in 3D, PG-13 (!)

No fees at our location

11:35, 12:15, 3, 3:25, 6:15, 6:40,

9:10, 9:45

Zookeeper, PG

11:25, 1:50, 4:30, 7:45, 10:10

Captain America, PG-13 (!)

11:35, 3, 6:15, 9:10

Friends with Benefits, R (!)

11:25, 1:50, 4:30, 7:45, 10:10

Transformers: Dark of the Moon,

PG-13 (!!)

12:45, 4:15, 8

SUN. – THU

Horrible Bosses, R (!)

11:45, 1:50, 4:10, 6:50, 9:10

Winnie the Pooh, G

11:10, 1:25, 3:20, 5:15

Bad Teacher, R

7:30

Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows in 3D, PG-13 (!)

No fees at our location

11:20, 11:45, 2:10, 2:45, 5:05,

5:45, 8:10, 8:45

No Wednesday 11:45 showing of Harry Potter July 27. Free showing of Shrek: The Final Chapter at that time. Seating is limited.

Zookeeper, PG

11:25, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10

Captain America, PG-13 (!)

11:20, 2:10, 5:05, 8:10

Friends with Benefits, R (!)


11:25, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10

Transformers: Dark of the Moon,


PG-13 (!!)

11:15, 2:40, 6:45

More Community Events
on page 4 and 6



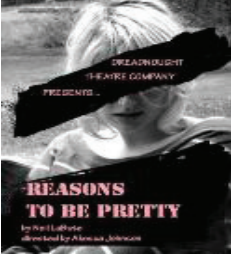
DOUBLE EVENTS AT THE GREENBELT ARTS CENTER



July 23 – 7pm
Neil Young Tribute Concert

\$15 General \$12 Students/Seniors

For information & reservations, call **301-441-8770**
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org
or **BOOK TICKETS ONLINE** at www.greenbeltartscenter.org



July 24, 2011 – 1pm
Staged Reading: Reasons To Be Pretty

Presented by Dreadnought Theatre Co

Coming Soon:
July 26 - 27 at 7:00 - Auditions - Same Time, Next Year
August 3 & 7, 2011 - Staged Reading: The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later by Dreadnought Theatre Co.
August 19 – September 3 - A Midsummer Night's Dream, guest production by The Rude Mechanicals

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Mars Day Friday At Air & Space

Friday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. is Mars Day at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum on the National Mall.

Mars Day features more than 15 displays and family activities throughout the museum including a Red Planet Quiz Show hosted by a Martian of Ceremonies. Mars Day leaders answer questions such as "Why is Mars red?" "Does it have water?" "Is there life on Mars?" and visitors will learn about volcanoes on Mars, the latest Mars research, current and future missions and will have a chance to see a life-size model of NASA's newest rover, Curiosity. The new rover will be launched in November equipped with more scientific gear than its predecessors Spirit and Opportunity.

For details visit the website <http://www.nasm.si.edu/marsday>.

Safeway's Food Bank Sale Ends Sunday

Safeway Stores are partnering with food banks throughout the mid-Atlantic region in a "Help Us End Hunger" food drive through Sunday, July 24 to bolster food bank supplies that typically run low during the summer months. For \$10, customers are urged to purchase a specially packed bag of groceries containing the most-needed items to leave at the store in designated areas for delivery to food banks.

Each bag contains tuna, peanut butter, cereal, canned vegetables, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese and instant mashed potatoes. Safeway says pre-packing the bags eliminates sorting and provides food bank clients with full, nutritious grocery donations. Food bank representatives or volunteers will pick up the donated bags of groceries. The nearest Safeway is at Greenway Center on Greenbelt Road.

Statistics show the demand for food at local food banks has increased by 54 percent since 2008. In Maryland, one in eight residents are at risk of hunger and nearly 36 percent of those seeking food come from a household with at least one working adult. Forty-five percent of those in need earn too much to qualify for assistance and have nowhere to turn except food pantries, shelters or soup kitchens.

Donation Drop-Off On Sat., July 23

A Donation Drop-Off, co-sponsored with the American Rescue Workers, will be held on Saturday, July 23 from 9 a.m. to noon behind the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road and the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

SERVE BREAKFAST
AT S.O.M.E.

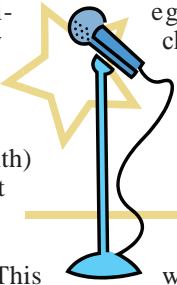
Sunday, July 31

Meet at St. Hugh's School

Parking Lot, 6:00 AM

Greenbelt Library Holds Second Poetry Reading

by Jim Link



The Greenbelt Library followed its very successful open microphone poetry reading in April (National Poetry Month) with another one last Saturday, July 9 billed as "We the Poets and Lovers of Poetry." This time librarian Perry Douros chaired a lively discussion of what poetry is and does, as a poet's dozen of participants sat around a long table and read their own and others' material.


Douros suggested that poetry is language charged to its highest power of expression and gave a couple of examples. Instead of prosaically asserting "My life is petty and ineffectual," it is exponentially superior to say "I should have been a pair of ragged claws, scuttling across the floors of silent seas." (T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock") Rather than saying merely that "armies blunder

egregiously during the chaos of battle," it is infinitely preferable to assert with Matthew Arnold in "Dover Beach" that "we are here as on a darkling plain, swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight, where ignorant armies clash by night."

The youngest reader, Melissa (14) read her own "One Tear" and "Maybe Next Time." The oldest, Jan Kuhn, read her own "On Being 80."

Jordan, also 14, read his own "Saltwater Raindrops," which Douros read again to great effect. Hannah claimed that "writing time is prayer time." Randi read "Historical Liars." Joe claimed that poetry "alleviates loneliness" and Patricia suggested that it "deepens our thinking."

Gather with the poets and poetry lovers next on September 10 to join your "barbaric yawp" (Whitman) to theirs!



The mother is the first teacher of the child. For children, at the beginning of life, are fresh and tender as a young twig . . . In God's sight, the best of all ways to worship Him is to educate the children and train them in all the perfections of humankind; and no nobler deed than this can be imagined.

(Abdu'l-Baha)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltucc.org
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd

St. George's Episcopal Church

Join us around a table where all are welcome!

Services

- Sundays
 - 8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)
 - 10 a.m. main service (music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)
- Wednesdays
 - 7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org





Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt




Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor
Worship Service 10:00am



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org




Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

July 24, 10 a.m.

"Hello, Nice to Meet You. What Do You Do?" by PBUUC Men's Fellowship with Worship Associate John Sebastian.

Is there a way to accept a man for who he is, not just what he does?





MARVELOUS LIGHT CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER

"A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH THAT SEEKS TO FIND THE LOST AND GROW THE FOUND."

Come worship with us on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at:

4216 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705
(Maranatha SDA Church, in the Chapel).
Email: MarvellousLightCWC@yahoo.com
Website: www.marvellouslightcwc.com

REV. WYNDELL O. BANKS, SENIOR PASTOR



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
www.myholycross.org email myholycross@verizon.net

Summer Schedule
One Worship Service 9:30 a.m.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a traditional Bible-believing, Christ-centered congregation! Join Us!
Join us on Facebook at Holy Cross Lutheran Greenbelt



Greenbelt Baptist Church

101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Welcome!



Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. James Lawton - Pastor
301-474-7573
6301 Greenbelt Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
berwynpresbyterian.net



Worship : Sundays at 10:00 am -- Child Care Available
Sunday School : Will resume on Sept 11 @ 9:30 am
Office Hours : M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist



Condolences to former Greenbelt Nancy Pilski Grill of Mount Dora, Fla., on the death of her husband Rob Grill on July 11, 2011, in a hospice in Tavares, Fla. Mr. Grill, a musician, had been the lead vocalist with the 1960s rock band “Grass Roots.”

Congratulations to:
– Six Eleanor Roosevelt High School graduates awarded scholarships in 2011 National Achievement and Merit Scholarship Programs: Obinna Obinech, Xavier Thompson and Natasha Scott (whose scholarship was underwritten by Xerox), who received \$2,500 scholarship awards; and National Merit Scholarships of between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for four years to Rhiannon Aguilar and Adnan Choudhary to attend the University of Maryland and Alexandra Pierce to attend Washington University in St. Louis.

– Stephen Hunt, who received the Brendan Sail Training Program’s Jerry and Kathryn Wood Award for outstanding achievement at the 11 to 14 age level at the St. Mary’s College of Maryland camp. The award is named after former owners of the Annapolis Sailing School, which has housed the Brendan Program free of charge since its inception. Camp volunteers Lisa and Michael Kelley presented the award, saying Hunt that, “Although he didn’t know much about sailing when he arrived . . . he committed himself to meet each day with a positive outlook and an eagerness to get on the water. He made himself at home in the group and his enthusiasm was infectious.”

Susan Lesser, of 18 Court Ridge Road, is proud to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Molly Rachel (Betman) Flores on June 15, 2011, at Holy Cross Hospital. Molly is the daughter of Sarah Betman, 1996 graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt HS, and Edwin Flores, of Washington, D.C. Molly weighed in at 6 lbs, 15 oz, and joins sister, Monica, 6.

Best wishes to Patti Brothers and Danny Stange who were married on Saturday, July 16 at Greenbelt Community Church. The Honorable H. Robert Mayer of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit performed the ceremony. Afterward everyone went to Ledo’s in College Park. Patti and Danny honeymooned at the Lancaster Bed & Breakfast and the Wolf Sanctuary of Pennsylvania.

Our best to Michaela Haber, who has made a two year teaching commitment to a 2011 Teach For America high-needs community. She graduated from ERHS in 2007, Goucher College in 2011 and will teach in the Rio Grande Valley.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers.

– Kathleen McFarland

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

Not for Children Only at Patuxent Research Refuge

Patuxent Research Refuge public programs are held at two sites, the North Tract and the National Wildlife Visitor Center. All programs are free, although donations to the Friends of Patuxent are appreciated. These programs do require advance registration by calling 301-497-5887; special needs can be accommodated with advance notice.

For more information visit the website at patuxent.fws.gov.

North Tract

The North Tract, located on Rt. 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 32, is offering the following programs:

What’s Buggin’ Bats! – Saturday, July 23, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., for all ages. Discover Maryland’s bats and the dangers they

face. Learn the vital role they play in the environment and why they are so helpful.

Weed Warriors – Saturday, July 30, 9 a.m. to noon, for ages 13 and older. Non-native invasive plants are threatening wildlife habitat. The Refuge needs help to stop them – bring gloves and water (and hand tools if available) and help fight these alien invaders.

Wildflower Walk – Saturday, July 30, 10 a.m. to noon, for all ages. Discover the role that wildflowers play in the ecosystem and learn to identify some common species on this guided walk. Field guide, water and magnifying glass recommended.

Visitor Center

The National Wildlife Visitor Center, located on Powder Mill

Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197, is offering the following programs:

Whose Clues? – Saturday, July 23, 10 to 11:30 a.m., for ages 5 to 7. Why are tracks and scat so important? Join this fun, interactive program to learn why. Discover signs of animals who have been hanging out at Patuxent.

An Otter’s Tale – Wednesday, July 27, 1 to 2:30 p.m., for ages 5 to 7. Live the life of an otter in this “otterageous” hands-on program. Learn why otters are so at home in the water.

Nature Tots: Lady Bugs, Lady Bugs! – Thursday, July 28, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., for ages 3 to 4. Search for lady bugs and learn all about them through songs and stories.

MHS Joins Museum Free Pass Program

The Maryland Historical Society (MHS) has announced it has joined the Blue Star Museum program that provides for free entry from Memorial Day through Labor Day to more than 1,480 museums nationwide for active duty military members and their families.

Participants include children’s museums, fine art museums, history and science museums and nature centers.

The Maryland Historical Society, 210 W. Monument Street in Baltimore is currently exhibiting displays on Maryland soldiers in the Civil War.



City Information

MEETINGS FOR JULY 25-29

Monday, July 25th at 8:00pm, CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION/Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Report at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Tuesday, July 26th at 7:30 pm, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Wednesday, July 27th at 7:30pm, FOUR CITIES MEETING at Berwyn Heights.

Thursday, July 28th at 8:00pm, CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, Quarterly Transit Meeting, at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. Vacancies exist on: Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Youth Advisory Committee and Public Safety Advisory Committee

For information call 301-474-8000.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SATURDAY, JULY 30th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Public Works Yard

City residents can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Bring your items to Greenbelt Public Works 555 Crescent Road.

Accepted items include: TVs, CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptop computers, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, fax machines, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, batteries taped on one end, expanded Polystyrene (block “Styrofoam” #6) – NO cups, egg-cartons, nor food trays.

PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU WANT TO DROP-OFF MORE THAN 10 ITEMS OR ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.

For further information, contact the Greenbelt Recycling Office at 240-542-2153.

The staffers of Creative Kids Camp, Circus Camp and Camp Encore are proud to present

THE 2011 SCHOLARSHIP SHOW FRIDAY, JULY 22 AT 7:00 PM COMMUNITY CENTER GYM



The entire production is rehearsed on the performers’ own time, as a gift to the community. The suggested minimum donation per ticket is \$5, with all proceeds going to the Mary Purcell Geiger Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for Recreation Department arts classes throughout

the year. You can purchase tickets in advance from the Community Center office either in person or by phone, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

CALL 301-397-2208 for information or to buy tickets.

Recreation assistants needed at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Customer service & event set up.
Weekend/evening shifts; part-time.
\$7.25/hr.

Call 301-397-2208 for application information. EOE

GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER

550-A Crescent Road (behind Police Station)
COME OUT AND VISIT THESE ADORABLE PETS AND OTHERS:
Cowboy (l) is a fun and friendly boy who loves to play. But he needs to be the only pet in the household.
Peggy (r) is a young girl who was found wandering all by



herself near the fire department. The shelter now has KITTENS and lots of them! Cute and adorable, they are ready to go home!



The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm, Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment INFO: 301.474.6124. Donations welcome any time! We especially need kitty litter! **Visit the Greenbelt Animal Shelter on Facebook.**



“Like” us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt
Visit Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov for city information.

TASK FORCE continued from page 1

and retaining only smaller portions. Annual operating costs to maintain the building, based upon operating costs for the Greenbelt Community Center, are \$600,000 for alternative A and \$900,000 for B. These costs might be reduced by revenues when the building is utilized.

A commitment by council on August 15 to acquire the building would have to be conditional upon voter approval to issue bonds. In addition, the council may wish greater dialog with Greenbelters before making a final commitment to undertake such an annual expense.

Alternate Plans

The original two-story 20,600 square-foot structure was built by the federal government as the town's high school. It was located away from the rest of the town to be convenient to residents of Berwyn Heights, whose teenagers would also attend the school. Council considers it historic and subject to preservation. After construction of the Defense Homes in Greenbelt in 1941/42, an 11,900 square foot addition was completed in 1945.

Subsequently the school board converted the building to a junior high school and then a middle school. Other additions were made in 1953, 1957, 1962 and 1969, bringing the building's total square footage to 129,000 square feet.

While newer parts of the building may be the most suitable and least expensive to renovate, it is the historic portions that the school board is obligated to preserve; hence the \$6,000,000 cost.

The new school building will also require removal of a portion of the adjacent school bus parking lot and maintenance facility. The school system wishes to replace that loss with space now occupied by a portion of the 1969 addition, including the building's multi-purpose room and stage.

The task force has concluded that maintaining the entire building would require an annual operating cost of \$1,800,000 and this amount, plus the greater capital costs for renovation, was more than the city could afford. Instead, the task force recommends demolition of much of the building and retention of the two historic sections and useful adjacent construction.

Minimal Proposal

Alternate A is the minimal proposal. It would preserve for the community center the original 1937 building, the 1953 gym and locker rooms, the 1962 band and exercise rooms and the 1969 administrative wing at the north end of the building. Its 30,423 square feet of usable space would be 80 percent of the size of the Greenbelt Community Center.

A rough estimate by the school board of renovation costs would be \$5,263,000. The city in turn would undertake an annual building operating cost of about \$600,000. Included in the cost estimate is \$529,000 for demolishing portions of the existing building not to be used.

Besides the facilities named above, alternate A would provide five labs, five classrooms, seven storage rooms, office space for counselors and a boiler room.

Alternate B offers greater space at greater cost. In addition to alternate A, this proposal would add the 1945 media center, office, lounge and health room, the 1969 art room and the 1957 classrooms at the south end of the building.

Its usable space would be 45,913 square feet, 21 percent larger than the Greenbelt Community Center.

Renovation costs would total \$6,990,000 and annual operating costs would be \$900,000. Demolition costs would be reduced to \$369,000. This alternate would add 10 more classrooms, 10 storage rooms, additional offices and a second boiler room.

Demolished in both proposals would be a large multi-purpose room with stage, which is also used as a lunch room and many more classrooms.

Additional Land

Both plans contemplate the city's acquiring a 7.2 acre parcel of land at the northwest corner of Edmonston and Greenbelt Roads. It is anticipated the school board would declare the land surplus, if it accepts a proposal from the city, and would turn it over to the county government, as required of surplus school property. The county would then agree to turn the land over to the city for a nominal sum, possibly a dollar.

Another 1.78 acres would become part of the school bus facility to replace land it lost to the new school facility.

Although not mentioned in the report, the committee's site plan proposes adding 54 parking spaces, 21 along the existing driveway of the building and 33 in a new lot in front of the building. Parking construction costs have not been estimated.

A wooded area at the southeast corner of Edmonston Road and Breezewood Drive would remain school board property.

Uses

The committee finds there is need for more community services in Greenbelt, particularly in Greenbelt West and has attached letters from various schools, Campfire USA and Franklin Park expressing those needs.

Part of the renovated school building should be used to provide comprehensive services operated or sponsored by the city, the committee recommends. The committee felt it was in the purview of the Board of Education to determine if any or all of the old school should be made available to Turning Point Academy, a school chartered by the county school system.

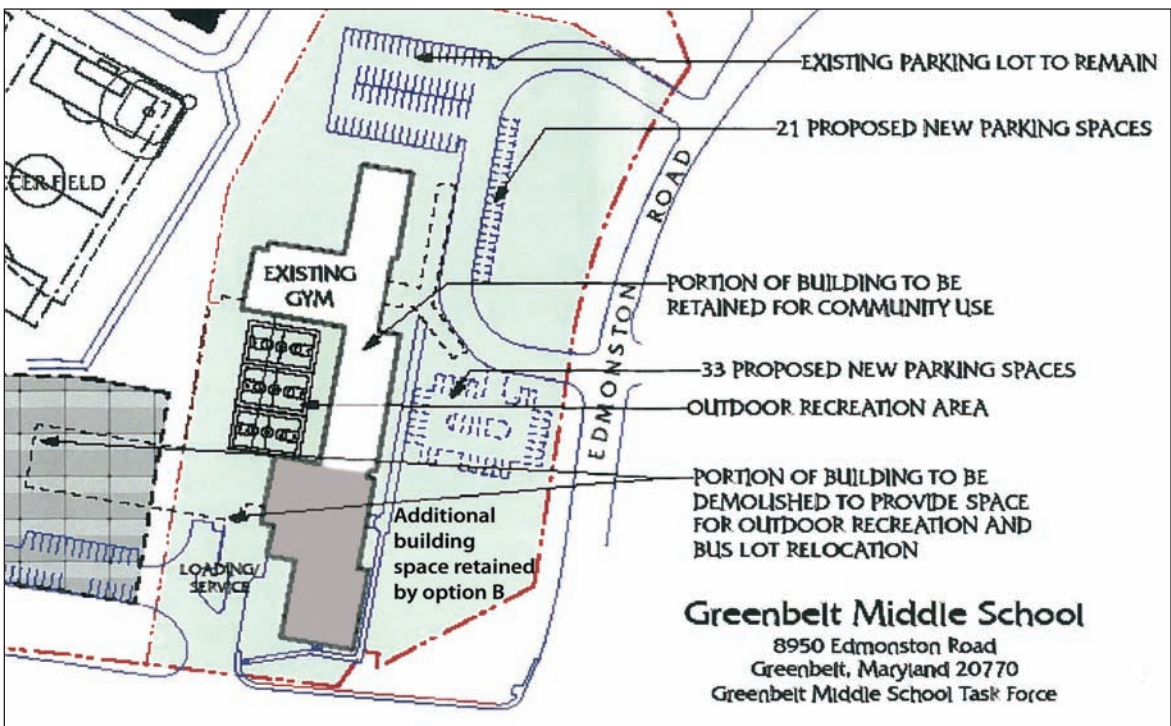
The committee also recommended that the new center have an adequate technology resource for both educational and operational use, providing for expanded public use of computers and allowing for programming in science, the arts and technology. The comprehensive community center should also include a fine arts component integrated and balanced with other community programs, they recommend.

Lastly, because of existing zoning restrictions, the committee found the building to be unsuitable for use as a homeless shelter.

Council Reaction

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation for the thoroughness and quality of the report. Task Force Chair David Lange commended the excellent staff support provided by Assistant Recreation Director Joe McNeal who, in turn, noted the many midnight hours Lange had spent on the report.

Members of the task force, beside Lange, are Beatrice Rodgers, vice-chair; Ken Blue from Park and Recreation Advisory Board; Keith Chernikoff, Advisory Planning Board; Brenda Cooley, Senior Citizen Advisory Committee; Rev. Daniel R. Hamlin, Com-



The Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Proposes two alternatives for reutilizing portions of the old school as city community center. The unshaded building footprint is Alternate A, for Alternate B the shaded area is added to Alternate A. To the back of the building, basketball courts are depicted where there is not a courtyard. The Task Force proposes additional parking in front of the building portions of the old school to be demolished are to the left of the Alternate Band the Courtyard. The new school is now being built off the plan in the upper left corner. The school bus lot is to the lower left of the plan.

munity Relations Advisory Board; Elizabeth Hammett, Youth Advisory Committee; Natasha Jenkins; Sharee Koenig and Janet Mirsky,

Advisory Committee on Education; Rosemary Pezzuto; Barbara Simon; David Whaples and Shane Wisdom, Arts Advisory Board. Leta

Mach was City Council liaison. School Board Member Peggy Higgins was liaison for the Board of Education.

WMATA continued from page 1

“untenable situation.” WMATA has no concerns about the principals with whom they have been working; only minority participants have been accused of criminal activity.

In response to an inquiry by Roberts about the reported \$6 million purchase price in the original development agreement, the WMATA representatives explained that there was an appraisal of \$72 million for the property but the development agreement required the developer to replace the surface parking lots with a multi-story parking structure estimated to cost \$66 million. The actual purchase cost would have been \$6 million plus the \$66 million parking structure. Under the new agreement, the purchase price will be determined when the actual use of the property is known.

Other Concerns

Mayor Judith Davis asked if WMATA had pursued, with the State Highway Administration, completion of the Beltway interchange at the Greenbelt Metro station since any high density development would need more than the existing partial interchange. WMATA has had no discussions with state officials about a full interchange but will look at proposed development to see if a full interchange is necessary. Davis reminded the WMATA representatives that an expanded interchange will take a long time to achieve and that site development could be completed years before the highway improvements.

Council members were concerned about a reported crime problem at the Greenbelt station. Greenbelt police statistics don't reflect this. WMATA Maryland Government Relations Officer Scott said that most of the crime involves the parked vehicles and that increased communication and

cooperation with the Greenbelt police has made a difference. He referenced the arrest by a Greenbelt K-9 unit over the Fourth of July weekend of an individual who had committed two armed robberies near the station. WMATA will also install a security camera at the Greenbelt entrance to the station; the camera will survey the parking lot areas.

As part of a discussion about improvements and extensions of the Metro train system, Bottigheimer described WMATA's consideration of relieving the bottleneck at the Roslyn station and tunnels expected when the Dulles line becomes operational by sending up to four Blue line trains an hour across the current Yellow line Potomac River bridge and on to Greenbelt. If the suggestion is adopted, passengers from Greenbelt could access Ronald Reagan National Airport and other Blue line stations without changing trains. One factor which might keep WMATA from the change would be the confusion which might result from both north-south and east-west Blue line trains using the L'Enfant Plaza station.

Greenbelt Ventures

In his brief history of the planning for the development of the Greenbelt Metro site, Bottigheimer referenced the attempt by Greenbelt Ventures to purchase a controlling interest in the Metroland corporate entity and the “continuing” lawsuit resulting from the failure of the WMATA board to approve the transfer of ownership. The News Review has had continuing coverage of the lawsuit and reported (June 23) that Judge Alexander Williams had dismissed the lawsuit. Court records available online indicate that Greenbelt Ventures appealed the dismissal to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on July 7.

CERT Training to Be Held Next Month

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains local resident volunteers in the handling of major emergencies (hurricanes, heat waves, snow storms) or other disasters, preparing them to help themselves, their families and neighbors in such situations. Training is free and open to those over the age of 18.

The next CERT training locally will be held the weekend of August 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day – it is currently scheduled at the Fire Services Building, 6820 Webster Street in Landover Hills, though that location may change.

Basic introduction to CERT training (about 24 hours of training) is held three or four times each year. Training includes safety, first aid, search and rescue, debris removal and victim extraction by a wide variety of professionals in fire, safety and law enforcement fields. People completing CERT training may be affiliated with a team formed through a neighborhood association, a private business, a municipality, a school or non-profit association or simply private individuals willing to serve their communities.

To register or for more information, contact Tonie R. Davis, III, president, Prince George's County Council of CERT at 202-441-0392 or CERTpgmd@gmail.com or Calvin Hawkins, Office of Homeland Security at 301-883-3300 or CSHawkins@co.pg.md.us.

Greenbelt CERT

The Greenbelt CERT organization meets at the Greenbelt Police Station on the third Monday of the month, with the next meeting on Aug. 15.

Analysis

Putting the Old Middle School to Best Use within the Budget

by James Giese

Some important unresolved issues facing the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force and Greenbelt City Council could significantly affect the group interim report recommendation for the city to acquire part of the old middle school building as a multi-purpose community center for Greenbelt West and for the city as a whole. Among these are determination of uses, size of the facility, financing the renovation, its operating costs and the time frame for decision-making. In part, these issues remain still unresolved because of the pressure for an August response to a school staff request for city plans for the building. The problem is compounded by changing characteristics of the present and future populations of Greenbelt West and their potential needs.

Demographics

Currently, the residential population of Greenbelt West is concentrated in one massive apartment complex, the former Springhill Lake/Empirean Village now under new ownership as Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station. Fieldstone Properties, owners of Franklin Park, are undertaking a major renovation of all its apartments – some 2,900 units – at the rate of 85 to 100 a month, according to Sharmaine Koenig, resident relations manager, in a statement provided the committee. She added that rent has been increased an average of \$200 for all units and the demographics have changed considerably. According to task force minutes of April 14, 2011, Koenig advised the committee that under the new owners there have been 280 renter evictions. The owners are focusing on the middle priced rental housing market, of which a shortage exists. Special emphasis is being made, she said, to recruit active military personnel, university students, hospital workers and law enforcement and fire personnel as tenants. Koenig said the owners are working to develop a renter demographic that shifts the current median household income of \$30,000 per year to \$50,000 per year over the next two years. If these changes are successful, the needs and interests of these new residents would differ significantly from those of the tenants whose demographics were set forth in the 2010 Census.

Future development in Greenbelt West would provide an up-scale multi-use commercial and housing project at the Greenbelt Metro station and adjacent land to the south. Building of the first housing units was getting underway when the housing market collapsed, bringing new development to a halt. While the south core housing will eventually take place, probably in a modified form, owners of rights to build on the station property appear to be seeking a major governmental agency building. There is no known assurance that this will happen, however. Greenbelt can expect future population growth in this area of Greenbelt West. However, the type of housing, the needs of its residents and when this will happen are anyone’s guess at this time. Uses The committee has identified a wide variety of possible uses in a community center but has no specific recommendations other than adequate technology resources for educational and operational technology and a fine arts component. Some uses were ruled out by the committee. Due to zoning restrictions no part could be used for a homeless shelter, the task force recommended. With the advent of personal computers and internet in most homes, a telecommuting work center in the facility is no longer being considered. Inclusion of a charter school in the building is not within the purview of the task force and may be considered by the school system. During the three public hearings the task force reported almost no resident input on uses for the building. Some Greenbelt West residents advocated the need for city services now found in Greenbelt Center to be located in their community. However, there will be similar access problems for a facility in Greenbelt West for residents of other areas of Greenbelt. Greenbelt East residents who have similar access problems to existing city facilities may see no benefit from another community center in Greenbelt West. At a July 13 worksession Mayor Judith Davis said it was not the intent of the city to move services from the existing Greenbelt Community Center to Greenbelt West, but rather to provide

that area of the city with needed services. Use of space for city offices is listed as one possibility by the task force but has not been seriously considered. Celia Craze, director of planning and community development, in particular, has expressed her department’s critical need for larger quarters. Davis had the final word on building use for a community center at the old middle school building at the worksession: “We had no problem filling this building [the Greenbelt Community Center where the meeting was held]. We will fill that one, too.” Size The committee ruled out as too costly using the entire building as a community center. The city has also been advised that the school system wishes to tear down one wing of the building in order to extend the bus parking facility to replace land lost by the new school construction. Instead the committee proposed two alternative sizes for a community center, alternate A at 30,423 square feet or 80 percent the size of the Greenbelt Community Center and alternate B at 45,913 square feet or 21 percent larger than the city’s existing center. The larger proposal offers greater opportunity for a variety of uses and activities but at greater cost. Alternate A has a rough cost estimate of \$5,263,600 for required and high-priority building renovation items in the portion of the building to be re-utilized and for demolition of the remaining structure. With \$6,000,000 budgeted, it might be possible to undertake other desirable work that could be delayed, such as replacement of windows, doors and flooring, estimated to cost \$464,000, and possibly even install an elevator in the two-story building. However, the city could still face the need for other capital expenses to make the building suitable for particular uses. Historic preservation requirements might require added cost. The city might not need to undertake a bond issue, however, for alternate A. Alternate B’s rough cost estimate for required and high-priority items plus partial demolition is \$6,990,000. In order to accomplish such work, at least another million dollars and probably more would be needed, requiring a city bond issue and voter approval at

referendum. At the June 13 worksession, Councilmember Rodney Roberts advocated retaining the entire building. “I think it is foolish to waste a good building,” he said. “I don’t see a 50-year-old building as being very old and I see so many needs that could use the space.” He conceded that in order to do so the city would need to rent out part of the building, such as to Turning Point Academy. William Orleans, a member of the audience at the worksession, urged council to send out invitations for proposals to use the building. He felt there might be enough interest to pay for cost of the building. Roberts has been trying to find another site for the school bus facility. He suggested one near Vansville that was available for rent or sale to the school system. However, the site is not as large as the existing site nor does the school system have the money to replace the maintenance buildings on the existing site. (Apparently no one has seriously considered selling the school bus lot property and, possibly, adjacent school site frontage along Greenbelt Road. Being adjacent to commercially zoned property on either side and across Greenbelt Road and located on a major highway with access at a traffic signal, the property should be of considerable value. Proceeds of such a sale might finance the cost of a new facility on suitable but less costly land.)

Costs Absorbing the cost of operating and maintaining another large building will impact the city budget and the need to raise taxes. The task force has provided estimates for annual operation and maintenance of the proposed community center of \$600,000 for alternate A and \$900,000 for alternate B. Based on information on the amount of dollars a one-cent property tax levy raises, a little less than a three-cent tax levy would be required to raise \$600,000 and a four and one-half cent tax to raise \$900,000. These cost estimates are based on actual cost per square foot for operating the Greenbelt Community Center. They could be more or less for the old middle school. Revenues realized from uses of the building could offset a part of these costs. These would probably not be the only added costs to the city, however. If the city offers programs of any kind, particularly any without fees, there would be additional budgeted expenses. Until such programs are clearly identified, costs to the city are uncertain. Other annual city costs would be incurred to pay off bonds that might be authorized to remodel and improve the building. Such added city expenses should be known at the time a bond issue referendum is put forth for voter approval. By then the city will have better information on how acquisition of the old school would impact the annual budget.

Greenbelt Baseball Fall Ball Registration

Ages 8 to 12 (as of May 1)

Resident Fee \$20.00 Each Child

Non-resident Fee \$25.00 Each Child

Registration will be held Every Saturday

at McDonald Field (7 Court Southway) from 10 a.m. to noon

For more information please contact

Christine Bailey – 301-395-0062

Greenbelt Baseball will have Drop-in-baseball

every Saturday from July 23 to August 27

at McDonald Field (7 Court Southway)

from 10 a.m. to noon

This is a FREE event.





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NEWS IN REVIEW

July 21, 2011

Eldon Ralph to be New GHI General Manager

Incoming General Manager Eldon Ralph with Gretchen Overdurff

by David Morse

I was supposed to write an official-sounding story about GHI’s new general manager-to-be. It would have sounded like this:

“The Board of Directors has selected Eldon Ralph to become general manager to succeed long-time GM Gretchen Overdurff, who is retiring December 31. Mr. Ralph, who has been assistant general manager since May 2008, will begin in his new post December 12. He joined GHI in April 1997,” etc., etc.

It would have gone on to list his professional qualifications and experience (which are extensive), much like a resume.

Those things are important. But they can obscure as much as they reveal. So I am yield-

ing to the temptation to share some personal impressions.

I first met Eldon Ralph many years ago. I was your typical, average member, keeping his head down, trying not to be noticed, taking little part in GHI affairs, and sunk in meeting family responsibilities.

We had had a problem with some GHI maintenance work. The man who came to take stock of the situation was, to my surprise, the department head—then-Director of Physical Plant Facilities Eldon Ralph. He was calm, courteous, and forthright. He made no specific promises but assured us that he would look further into the situation and that we would be satisfied with the outcome. And we were.

My first impressions have been enlarged by years of having worked with Eldon as a Board member. Eldon generates confidence, respect, and loyalty with his patience, his knowledge, his tireless labor in carrying out his responsibilities, his willingness to learn new things, and his ability to share his knowledge and opinions in gracious, plain language without technical or bureaucratic jargon.

It’s also important to know that he has a degree in mechanical engineering as well as a post-graduate degree and a host of other professional certifications in engineering, management, accounting and finance, and community association management. He is also an award-winning public speaker. You can find out more details in a profile which ran in the September/October 2008 Communicator (<http://ghi.coop/content/septemberoctober-2008>).

Eldon will doubtless be surprised to see my account of our first meeting here, which I have never discussed with him. I am hoping this brief portrait will provide members a fuller understanding of GHI’s good fortune in finding a worthy successor to Gretchen Overdurff in our own backyard.

Think Your Property Taxes Are Too High?

Maryland’s Home Owners’ Property Tax Credit places a limit on the amount of real estate tax you have to pay, based upon your total gross household income. This is completely different from the Homestead Tax Credit. This credit is available to all Maryland home owners who satisfy the following criteria:

- You own your home
- It is your principal residence
- You have lived there for six months, including July 1st
- Your net worth is less than \$200,000 (this does not include the value of your home and qualified retirement savings or IRAs)
- Your combined gross household income does not exceed \$60,000

The chart below gives examples of the tax limit for certain income levels:

Application forms are available online at www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60 or may be obtained from the GHI office on Hamilton Place.

The application form requires your account number. The number for your unit is on the Real Property Tax Information form that you received from GHI in May. If that is not available to you, call the Finance Department at 301-474-4161, or e-mail jperry@greenbelthomes.net.

Need help in filling out the application form? Contact Julia Frank at 301-345-6660 and set up an appointment today. Ms. Frank works at the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program, which is part of Greenbelt CARES. She would be happy to assist you.

Deadline for Applying is September 1, 2011.

Household Income	Tax limit
\$1 - \$8,000	\$ 0
\$9,000	\$ 40
\$14,000	\$ 290
\$20,000	\$ 780
\$25,000	\$ 1,250

For each additional \$1,000 of income above \$25,000, you add \$90 to the tax limit to find your tax level limit. Your combined gross income cannot exceed \$60,000.

Welcome to New Staff Member

The smiling face behind the reception desk belongs to Monica Johnson, newly hired to the upgraded position of administrative assistant in Member Services. Monica comes to us after 15 years working for a non-profit on Capitol Hill. She brings considerable experience and talent – including working with boards, planning meetings, researching grants, collecting member data, designing and updating websites, and developing promotional material. We are pleased to have her join the GHI family.

Find past issues of the Communicator on the web: www.ghi.coop , click **Member Resources**.
Find past issues of the Greenbelt News Review on the web: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Planning Interior Renovations?

If you are planning kitchen or bathroom renovations, they often involve plumbing and electrical changes. As such, they may require county, city and WSSC permits, depending upon the scope of the work. Since most interior renovations require a GHI permit for the minimum purpose of documentation of the change, it is best to become familiar with the GHI rules [<http://ghi.coop/content/x-improvements-alterations-additions>] that apply, and submit the applicable Type II permit request [<http://ghi.coop/content/type-ii-improvement-permit-request>] for Technical Services to review. This advance planning will help to expedite the installation of your interior improvements.

The Results Are In

In May and June members were surveyed for their views on the value of the Communicator newsletter and the GHI News in Review page. The feedback was thoughtful, and illustrated the varied needs of different segments of our community. The overwhelming conclusion is that most members see value in having both. They are, however, aware of budget limitations. Many members would like more use of e-mail and the web, but others do not have access to this medium and enjoy having hard copy to read. Upon the recommendation of the Communications Task Force, the Board has decided that the Communicator will continue to be published quarterly, and the GHI News in Review page will be produced up to twice a month.

Stay tuned for more information on the survey and details of printing schedules. Possible plans for increased use of electronic communication are also being discussed. Information will be found in future GHI News in Review pages, the Communicator, and on the web at www.ghi.coop.

What Can You Do?

Every member has something to offer to the GHI community. Do any of the following fit your skills and interests?

Marketing: Spread the word about why you enjoy living in the GHI cooperative. Staff a table, speak to a group, design materials, provide ideas about marketing opportunities.

Member Events: Plan or work at the member picnic, Labor Day events, GHI Yard Sale,

or House and Garden Tour. Be a court liaison.

Communication: Write, take photos, edit, draw cartoons, help with electronic media.

Revenue Generation: Research grant sources, write proposals.

These opportunities and many, many more are available to all members. Go to www.ghi.coop “I want to Volunteer” or call 301-474-4161, ext. 148.

Real Estate Tax Seminar

The GHI tax attorney will be providing information and answering member questions in September. The date, time, and location will be announced as soon as this information is available.

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“Greenbelt Homes”

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Follow us on

Twitter: “GHImgmt”

WHAT’S HAPPENING!						
JULY						
Fri	22	--	OFFICES CLOSED			
Sun	24	12:00pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation			
Mon	25	7:00pm	Board Training			
Wed	27	7:00pm	Buildings Committee			
AUGUST						
Mon	1	7:15pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation			
Fri	5	--	OFFICES CLOSED			
Tues	9	8:30am	Yard Line Committee			
Wed	10	7:30pm	Architectural Review Committee			
Thu	11	7:00pm	Finance Committee			
Sun	14	1-4pm	Board Retreat			
Mon	15	7:00pm	Communications Committee			
Tue	16	7:30pm	Companion Animal Committee			
Wed	17	7:00pm	Woodlands Committee			
Thu	18	7:30pm	Board Meeting			
Fri	19	--	OFFICES CLOSED			
Sun	21	12:00pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation			
Mon	22	7:00pm	Addition Maintenance Task Force			
Wed	24	7:00pm	Buildings Committee			
Tues	30	8:30am	Yard Line Committee			
(Dates are subject to change)						
Maintenance service is available –for real emergencies only– outside of normal maintenance hours or when offices are closed. Call 301-474-6011.						

Greenbelt Homes, Inc.~1 Hamilton Place, Greenbelt, MD. 20770 www.ghi.coop ~ Tel. 301-474-4161

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to “Weekly Report” or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robberies

July 10, 10:59 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive, a person was approached by two men who displayed handguns and demanded the person’s property. The suspects are described as black males, 25 to 30 years old, 5’9” tall, with medium builds. One was wearing a black and red Redskins shirt with blue jeans; the other was wearing a green camouflage shirt and pants.

Disorderly Conduct

July 9, 3:04 a.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway, a resident youth was petitioned for disorderly conduct and released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

July 10, 7:14 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road, a resident youth was petitioned for disorderly conduct. The youth was released to foster care authorities pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

Trespassing

July 8, 5:27 p.m., 9200 block Springhill Lane, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespassing on private property. He was released on citation pending trial.

July 12, 8:51 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespassing on private property. He was released to the Department of Corrections

for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

July 14, 1:45 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, a nonresident youth was petitioned for trespassing on private property. The youth was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

Reckless Endangerment

July 9, 2:05 a.m., 7800 block Mandan Road, residents reported the sound of gun shots in the area. No arrests were made.

Vandalism

July 6, 1:25 p.m., Ridge Road, graffiti was found on a sign on a door.

July 11, 10:22 a.m., Laurel Hill Road, a car was scratched.

Burglaries

July 10, 2:15 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, electronics and jewelry were among the items reported taken.

July 12, 1:56 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane, electronics were reported taken.

July 13, 5:30 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, electronics were reported taken.

Vehicle Crimes

Thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: 6300 block Ivy Lane (GPS), Greenway Center (camera), 7600 block Greenbelt Road (Md. tag) and 200 block Lakeside Drive (laptop). An attempted theft was reported in the 200 block Lakeside Drive.

WSSC Employees Should Be Verified

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) reminds everyone to play it safe when anybody appears at their door claiming to be a utility worker.

All WSSC employees are required to carry and prominently display their WSSC photo ID badges. Also, all WSSC workers who need access to customers’ homes, properties or businesses drive blue vans, trucks or cars clearly marked with WSSC name and water drop logo. If in any doubt, insist on seeing the ID badge for verification.

Anyone fearing for safety in such circumstances should call 911. In addition, those who observe suspicious activity involving WSSC employees or vehicles or who think someone may be posing as a WSSC employee is asked to call WSSC at 301-206-8888.

MVA Launches New State ECI Registry

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration has launched an Emergency Contact Information (ECI) program to help law enforcement personnel notify contacts in case of emergency.

The ECI Registry is a database in which Maryland driver’s license or ID card holders can voluntarily have emergency contact information including up to three contacts they want notified in an emergency stored electronically on their driving record.

People can submit their emergency information at www.mva.maryland.gov or at MVA kiosks located in all MVA offices. The information will be secure, available only to law enforcement officials and can updated as needed.

Camp Fire Burglary Hard Felt by Teachers, Students

by Sue Krofchik

Christmas in July. Someone stole it. Everyone is heart-broken. This is no plot for a television program. It happened right here in Greenbelt . . . Franklin Park . . . at Camp Fire USA. Taken in the burglary was all of the program’s electronic equipment: new laptops purchased through a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation; projectors, cameras and DVD players courtesy of other organizations; and Comcast boxes.

“There are no computers now. How will the children learn?” lamented Rosemary Pezzuto, CEO of Patuxent Camp Fire USA.

The laptops were to replace unusable desktop computers. To add insult to injury, they were not covered by insurance. They were brand new and still in boxes in Camp Fire’s office. Technically savvy teachers and volunteers were scheduled to arrive July 11 to open the boxes, add software and otherwise get the laptops ready for use. Serial numbers would have been recorded and reported to the insurance company at that time.

When volunteers arrived that Monday they found only empty boxes from the laptops. Other electronic items were also missing. Pezzuto felt the burglars “spent a significant amount of time [on site during the burglary] because items were taken from several different places” in the townhouse office. Equipment is kept there during non-class time and taken to portable labs at other locations and returned to

the office after use.

The theft has devastated program participants. Camp Fire USA is a service organization and provides Head Start activities for children and youth attending Greenbelt schools or living within the community. About 60 children are currently enrolled in this year-long program and approximately 40 come to the summer camp program each day.

The program brings many people together. Eleanor Roosevelt High School students volunteer there and earn service hours working with the children. NASA employees, University of Maryland students and other adults are involved with teaching and mentoring.

“When somebody steals things from children and youth, they rob them of the opportunity to be prepared for the future” said a heartsick and worried Pezzuto.

Debbie Dillon, executive vice president of Fieldstone Properties who manages Franklin Park, was saddened to hear of the burglary and expressed concern. “We work closely with Camp Fire and have given them space for their summer camp. This is unfortunate and we want to get to the bottom of it.”

According to Greenbelt Police Department Public Information Officer Kelly Lawson, anyone who offers information leading to an arrest and conviction of a suspect in this crime is eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. Callers may remain anonymous. Call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Call 1-866-411-TIPS. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

GIESE continued from page 1

includes that new home.

Some former activities in Greenbelt are no longer on his list of responsibilities, he says. He and Bernie no longer volunteer at the Greenbelt Art Center box office. Nor are they any longer docents at the Greenbelt Museum, as they were for years. While his term as board member of the Greenbelt Community Church has ended, the couple still attends Sunday services regularly and continue to serve as ushers and assist in counting the offerings.

Giese’s service to the News Review is still visible in his byline in most issues of this paper; though what readers cannot know, perhaps, is how he continues doing so through Tuesday evening appearances, assisting with editing chores and with continuing service on the governing board of the cooperative that puts out the paper.

While he tries to avoid covering city council meetings as a reporter, having attended more than enough, he says, when he was city manager, he fills in when other reporters are not available and at the challenging time in the period of budget review when many meetings are scheduled. Recently he has been reporting on activities of the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force.

Wider Activities

Word about these activities obviously got out quickly to the Collington community. Almost at once Giese was recruited as reporter – occasionally as emergency editor – for their monthly

newsletter. The paper focuses primarily on life stories of residents, he says, and on activities within the community. This fall he will assume editorship of the newsletter.

But Collington residents take on wider responsibilities outside their community, he adds. He and Bernie serve on the outreach committee, which provides meals for the homeless and children’s books for hospitals. For a homeless shelter at the First Methodist Church of Hyattsville, they have prepared sandwiches; on occasion he has served as driver. Giese also arranged for delivery of Christmas gifts of clothing to men in the Safe Haven shelter program.

Encouraged by fellow-resident June Turner, mother of Prince George’s County Commissioner Ingrid Turner, the Gieses also participated in a Saturday morning tutoring program for children held at Collington.

Frequent travel is still on the couple’s list of activities. For long auto trips they entertain themselves by listening to book CDs from the Greenbelt Library he says. In June they drove to Texas for the wedding of Bernie’s grandson, Kieran Milligan, and to visit her first great-grandson, Declan Cemper, and then on to Florida to celebrate the 80th birthday of Bernie’s brother-in-law. Along the way they stopped in Branson, Mo., to see some shows. Another trip will take them to Wisconsin for Bernie’s 65th high school reunion.

On the other hand, they traveled in the opposite direction last fall when they visited Canada’s Gaspé Peninsula and Quebec City with an M-NCPPC Recreation Department tour shortly after his selection as Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen. We expect we will see them both again this year – for the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival of 2011.

Greenbelters are encouraged to send nominations by August 1 via the form in this week’s issue or separately to Robert Zugby, Chair, Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Committee, 94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

The Fresh Air Fund Still Needs Hosts

The Fresh Air Fund is a non-profit organization that arranges summer vacation outings for low-income inner city children in New York City.

More families are still being sought in the Friendly Town program to give inner city children a two-week vacation experience in suburban and small town communities. There are no financial requirements for hosting a Fresh Air Fund child. First-time visitors are six to 12 years old and re-invited youngsters may participate in the program through age 18.

For more information visit the website at www.freshair.org, call Lisa Oakley locally at 202-244-8994 or the Fresh Air Fund at 1-800-367-0003.

Dress for Safety
Wear White
At Night
so drivers can see you!

LETTERS continued from page 1

re-certifying a yard plat might mean that co-op members dissatisfied with their certified yard plats would try to have them changed; that the committee had been directed how to rule on the issue, which might indicate that the GHI board had already reached a decision.

I agree that re-certifying previously certified yard boundaries without an established procedure is a problem. The GHI board, or the co-op members, should create a re-certification procedure for previously certified yard plats. They may decide that the procedure should be like the steps taken with our yard, where staff identifies the need, re-draws the yard plat and the board directs a committee how to deliberate. Or members may want something more like the original certification procedure.

In the case of our yard at 9G Ridge Road, staff told the board that they made the request so that we (and future residents) of 9G cannot block truck access by planting a hedge or building a fence. That access is needed (three or four times a year), we are told, for a leaf-vacuum truck and trailer to cross the 9 Court enclosed common area and the land formerly part of our yard. Due to the width of the leaf-vacuum truck and trailer, we are told that it cannot use any other route. (Smaller truck traffic is to resume using the pedestrian underpass between the library and the playground. We very much appreciate this future decrease in truck traffic through 9 Court and our yard.)

Please understand that we have not applied for a fence or a hedge. Our yard is unique among the end-unit yards that face the playground across Crescent Road from the library. It's the only one that does not have a fence or a hedge.

It is unlikely but possible that in the future, truck access through our soon-to-be-former yard will no longer be needed. Perhaps a smaller leaf-vacuum truck and trailer might come into use that can be driven through the pedestrian underpass. Perhaps what staff has told us is the best route, behind the apartment building at 12 Crescent Road, will become available again.

Should that time come, we will certainly ask the GHI board to re-certify our yard plat and return the land removed from it. That re-certification might be done through a member-approved procedure. Or perhaps our yard plat could be re-certified without any established procedure, as it is now being re-certified.

Kyle McAbee
and Monica McAbee

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Giants and the Indians and all the teams and players on a great Greenbelt Baseball season.

Special congratulations go to Giants Manager Brian Bailey and Coach Christine Bailey on winning the City Championship and to Indians Manager Greg Fisanich on six straight city championship appearances.

Greg Fisanich



THANKS!

Thanks to everyone who brought a car wash at Greenbelt Community Church. Because of our generous patrons and the always-supportive people in our congregation, members of the youth group are able to cut the cost of going on an overnight ministry retreat.

While in a simulated poverty-stricken village created in conjunction with Heifer International, a global relief work organization, the group will learn to barter, cook meager rations over an open fire, sleep in a mud hut and experience a technology-free 24 hours.

We appreciate Greenbelt's support in helping to make this trip possible.

Paula Clinedinst



Dental Implants - Don't Wait to Replace your Missing Teeth!



Dr. David McCarl, Dr. Clayton McCarl,
Dr. Monica Mattson, Dr. Jay McCarl
McCarl Dental Group

Dental implants are today's standard of care for replacing missing teeth and securing removable dentures. In the past few years, improvements in dental implant technology have made implants **more reliable, more comfortable and more affordable**. There are circumstances for which a dental implant has replaced root canal therapy as the preferred dental treatment. When the root of a tooth is too short or too badly damaged to support restoration with a dental crown, it may be best to extract the tooth and place a dental implant. The implant will provide greater support for the restored tooth and improved long term success.

Dental implants are placed in the jaw where they fuse to the bone. They are effective for restoration of a single missing tooth or multiple missing teeth. In the past, dentists relied on procedures that were often temporary measures to repair badly damaged teeth. Now, in many cases, implants restored with crowns will last longer and cost less than ongoing repair efforts.

When you lose a tooth, your jawbone gradually loses strength and firmness. This leads to bone loss and can even cause changes in facial features. The loss of just one tooth can cause uneven chewing and an unstable bite. The remaining teeth shift and proper cleaning becomes more difficult. A misaligned bite can also contribute jaw joint dysfunction and headaches. Unlike a denture or bridge, a dental implant can prevent bone loss at the site of the missing tooth.

Many patients tell us that having a dental implant placed is more comfortable than they expected. Unlike teeth, the jaw bone does not have nerves. The type and density of bone varies from patient to patient and even within different locations in the same patient's jaw. Bone density will determine whether the dental implant can be restored immediately, or whether the implant needs to "sleep" and strengthen for several months before use. Allowing an implant to "sleep" and fuse to the jaw bone significantly adds to its strength.

There are advantages to having a properly trained general dentist place your implant. A general dentist will be restoring the implant and can determine

the type and size implant that is most suitable as well as optimal position for later restoration. When the implant is placed and restored by the same dentist, there are fewer visits to the dentist which results in lower cost and greater convenience for the dental patient. Many patients are pleasantly surprised that the cost of dental implants is much lower than they expected. If you are missing teeth, visit a properly trained dentist to learn how dental implants can improve the health of your smile.

McCARL DENTAL GROUP, PC
Greenbelt, Maryland
\$45 New Patient Introductory Offer
Offer Includes: Exam, Cleaning and Necessary X-rays (\$295 value)

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No longer the "forbidden" fruit.
(With Dental Implants by the McCarl Dental Group.)

If you are missing teeth, there has never been a better time for a DENTAL IMPLANT!

The newest dental implants are easier for patients and much more affordable! They can permanently replace missing teeth and securely anchor loose dentures and partials in one appointment.

Visit the McCarl Dental Group in the morning, have your dental implant placed in less than an hour then go out and enjoy your favorite lunch. Eat comfortably! Laugh and talk with confidence!

Your crown, denture or partial denture feels secure and is being held firmly in place – for an extremely affordable price!

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Allsports Celebrates 25 Years

by Laren Rusin

Greenbelt's Allsports Physiotherapy Associates, located at Greenway Center Drive, is celebrating its 25th year of providing physical therapy services in the city.

With baby boomers aging and the general population living longer, improving the physical quality of life has become increasingly important to many and can include preventative medicine and wellness issues, along with advances in surgical techniques and pain management interventions. Physical therapy thus grows in importance both as a restorative and preventative tool.

History

Allsports was founded in 1986 as a partnership between Rehabilitation Associates of Maryland and Prince George's Orthopedic Associates. At the time, the initial operating board consisted of Dave Gray, P.T and Jim Doyle, P.T. from Rehabilitation Associates of Maryland and Chester Dilallo, MD and Kevin Hanley, MD. The clinic offered orthopedic interventions, physical therapy, sports physicals and first aid and safety training.

Eventually the physicians from Prince George's Orthopedic Associates left and the clinic became wholly devoted to physical therapy under the leadership of Kurt Herzberger, PT. In 1995 the clinic was acquired by Physiotherapy Associates. Allsports is led today by the management team of Todd Herzberger P.T, Kurt's son, and Laren Rusin DPT.

Herzberger has been associated with the clinic for more than 20 years, starting as a student in 1991. Growing from two physical therapists in 1986 to the current six has expanded the focus to envelop specialties outside orthopedics and sports injuries, such as hand therapy, vestibular rehabilitation and work-related rehabilitation.

Community

Earlier on, clinicians worked



Back row left to right: Toren Grant, MPT; Todd Herzberger, MPT, clinic director and AVP. Front row left to right: Naudia Falconer, MPT; Marla Miranian, MPT; Laren Rusin, DPT and assistant clinic director; and Amanda Dlinka, DPT.

closely with Bowie State University, DeMatha High School, Eleanor Roosevelt High School and athletes from various sports organizations. The Monday injury clinic was especially successful for athletes who had been injured over the weekend.

More recently, Allsports has had information booths or has volunteered at local races by the Prince George's Running Club, the local Prince George's Arthritis Walk, Old Greenbelt's Health Fair and NASA Goddard's annual Health and Wellness Fair. Clinicians have come to Old Greenbelt to offer balance screenings and fall risk assessments.

Over the last 25 years, the practice of physical therapy has changed. General medicine and physical therapy in particular now includes more evidence-based medicine, with a focus on individualized patient treatment plans. Therapists use a hands-on approach with manual training and fewer modalities.

With the rise of the internet, patients come to initial evalua-

tions with more knowledge of their condition and possible treatment options. The clinic itself has tripled in size to encompass over 5,000 square feet. Where treatment used to occur mostly in private rooms, the clinic now mostly uses open gym space, allowing patients to encourage each other and learn from others' experiences.

A wellness or step-down gym will open by the end of the summer for patients who want to continue their programs in a comfortable and rehabilitation-oriented gym setting or for those who wish to start exercises that focus on general strength and conditioning, osteoporosis prevention or other wellness programs.

Allsports continues to offer early morning and late evening patient care and participates in a wide variety of insurances. It specializes in spine care, post-surgical care, sports injuries and orthopedic care.

Laren Rusin is the assistant director of Allsports Physiotherapy Associates.

Pepco to Begin Smart Meter Installations

Pepco has notified the city that it began installing advanced digital electric Smart Meters in Maryland in June. In August 2010 the Maryland Public Service Commission approved the meter modernization program, which is consistent with federal initiatives to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. The company received \$68.85 million in federal stimulus grants to help fund the Pepco Smart Meter program in Maryland.

The installation project, contracted to Scope Services, will continue until all customers have received new meters. It is projected to be complete by December 2012. Prior to installation customers will receive a letter and fact sheet from Pepco.

The switch to Smart Meters is the first step in Pepco's investment in building a smart power grid to improve customer service and reliability, as will help customers better manage energy use.

More information on the meter replacement program is available on Pepco's website, www.pepco.com in the Smart Grid section under "Our Energy Future."

GHI continued from page 1

plans.

Falcon Engineering was rewarded the contract for construction management services for phase two of the pilot project. Responsibilities include producing project documents such as blueprints and maintenance manuals, scheduling and monitoring construction, conducting meetings with the construction firm and performing inspections. Bids ranged from \$38,640 to \$139,460. Falcon's bid was \$46,795.

The firm already is familiar with the project, having prepared its design specifications, and staff has been satisfied with their work.

Phase Two Construction

This part of the project includes building envelope improvements in 28 homes and replacement of waste water pipes in eight frame homes. The envelope is considered the "skin" that protects a building: roof, outer walls, windows, doors and its crawlspace. The board was expected to select a construction firm at this meeting. Of the 18 firms that requested bid packets, only two bids were received, \$777,000 and \$1.357 million, the latter more than twice the amount budgeted. Ralph cautioned, "Don't be pessimistic," because the highest bid included costs for construction management, not applicable to this bid because that will be performed by another firm, Falcon Engineering.

All 18 firms will be contacted for feedback. The buildings committee and appropriate staff will meet July 27 to restructure the scope of work and the bidding process. A recommendation is due at the next board meeting August 18. It is almost certain that portions of phase two plans will be delayed.

Pilot Financing

The board approved a motion clarifying what amount pilot home members will pay if the community-wide upgrade is not approved by members.

The cost of components installed in pilot homes not selected to be part of a community-wide upgrade will be shared by the membership as a whole. However, if an alternative component is approved for the community-wide upgrade, pilot members will be responsible for paying the less costly of either the component installed in the pilot unit or the component selected for the community-wide upgrade.

Addition Maintenance

A task force was convened in April 2011 to evaluate the addition maintenance plan (AMP), its viability in the future and how additions not on the plan should be handled during the possible community-wide upgrade.

The original construction of GHI homes did not include additions. They have been added by members. An addition may be added to the AMP at any time by applying (and meeting other requirements). However, enrollment is mandatory upon re-

sale. Of 1600 homes, 569 have additions on the AMP and 170 other additions are not. The task force recommended keeping the AMP since additions, like any other structure, require timely and ongoing maintenance. GHI also has contractual obligations to maintain additions currently under the plan.

The board agreed with the task force recommendation to conduct a sample survey of existing additions. Guidelines for doing such will be discussed at the August 18 board meeting. Knowing the status of existing additions will guide further recommendations, such as how those both on and not on the maintenance plan should be handled during the possible community-wide upgrade. This will also help in determining if a replacement reserve fund for addition maintenance should be instituted.

Transition Bid

The firm TransitionGuides was selected to organize and manage the transition to the new general manager. Ralph will take charge on December 12.

Requests for proposals were sent to five firms; two responded. TransitionGuides bid \$16,500, with the services to be provided including workshops, goals and evaluation tools, organizational assessment, executive coaching and document review.

References were reported as extremely favorable, with specific mention of their flexibility, thoroughness and professionalism.

Survey

The Communicator newsletter will continue quarterly publication. The GHI News in Review full-page ad in the Greenbelt News Review will also continue, up to twice monthly.

A survey completed in June found 57 percent of survey takers (113 of 199) want the Communicator to remain in paper format and be hand-delivered. Another 87 percent (174 of 199) strongly agree or agree it is useful/valuable to them.

For the News in Review full-page ad, 83 percent (148 of 178) strongly agree or agree it is useful/valuable.

Marketing Woes

Discussion included the marketing plan, heavily dependent on member volunteers, and the loss of one marketing opportunity in August. Last year's informational booth at the county's Professional Educator Induction Program led to three people becoming members. GHI will not participate at this event next month due to the lack of volunteers to staff the booth.

Other Business

Corporate authorization resolutions will be updated and executed with three financial institutions to include new board officers: Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, North State Bank and LaFayette Investments.

Yard line certifications were completed for 16 court Ridge. This project began in 2004 and 729 of 1600 yard have been certified as of July 1.

Legislative Redistricting Process Now Underway

by Mary Willis Clarke

At the July 18 worksession with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMA-TA) representatives (see separate story on page 1), Assistant City Manager David Moran briefed members of the city council on the upcoming congressional and legislative redistricting process. Necessitated by the constitutional mandate of redistricting after each decennial census, the current process has been slow to start but is now moving very quickly. On July 4 Governor Martin O'Malley announced appointment of members of the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee (GRAC).

GRAC will hold a series of public hearings and, using information gathered at public hearings census data and constitutional requirements, submit a proposed map of new U.S. congressional districts and Maryland legislative districts to the Governor. The Governor will submit redistricting plans to the General Assembly which must approve the plans. The U.S. congress-

sional redistricting plan may be considered at a special session of the General Assembly in October and the Maryland legislative redistricting at the regular session which begins in January 2012. No information about possible redistricting schemes has been released.

Public Hearing

GRAC will hold a public hearing in Prince George's County Monday, July 25 at 7 p.m. at Prince George's Community College in Largo. Because of a previously scheduled meeting about uses for the Greenbelt Middle School building, Greenbelt council members will be unable to attend. Moran will present the city of Greenbelt position that the city remain undivided for districting purposes and that all parts of the city should be in only one district. The city also wants to remain in Congressman Steny Hoyer's 5th congressional district. The city has taken no official position about its Maryland legislative district other than that the city should not be divided.

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Giants Top Indians in Championship

by Greg Fisanich

The Giants are the 2011 Greenbelt Baseball City champions. They beat the Indians two games to zero in a best-of-three series. The Indians, sponsored by Generous Joe’s Subs and Pizza, were the National League champions and defending city champions. The Giants, the American League champions, are sponsored by the Sons of American Legion squadron #136.

The Giants won game one 8-7. Led by Clark Reese and

Anthony Taylor, they pounded out 13 hits against Indians pitchers. The Indians, who lost six players from the previous season, were tied 3-3 before the Giants pulled ahead in the third inning. A game-changing leap and catch by Kadin Smith to turn a double play in the fourth halted an Indians rally. The Indians’ Kenny Reyes scored in the fifth inning and drove in the tying run in the sixth inning but the Giants hung tough.

Their Brian Bailey pitched six innings, had three hits and drove in the winning run in the sixth inning.

Game two went to the Giants 8-2. They jumped out to a 7-0 lead after two innings and never looked back. Giants batters had 15 hits over six innings. Indians batters were stymied by Giants pitcher Clark Reese.

Greg Fisanich is the manager of the Giants.



Greenbelt Baseball 2011 American League and City Champions – Giants Sponsor – Sons of American Legion Squadron #136. Front Row – J. Valentine, K. Opsahl, C. Bailey, B. Bailey, A.Waithe, K. Dawson, K. Smith. Back Row – Manager Brian Bailey, D. Dancy, G. Roper, C. Reese, Coach Christine Bailey, A. Taylor.



Greenbelt Baseball 2011 National League Champions and City Runners-up – Indians Sponsor – Generous Joe’s Subs and Pizza. Front Row – R. May, C. Wimbish, A. Ingram, Y. Henao, J. Reyes. Middle Row – B. Ingram, K. Reyes, P. Wimbish, J. Tejada, J. McGraw, K. Reyes, T. Cohen. Back Row – Coach Craig May, Manager Greg Fisanich, Coach Jon Cohan.

Girl Scout Troop Hosts Animal Shelter Fun Day

by Kristen Beauchamp

On Saturday, July 9, four members of Girl Scout Troop 4816 hosted an animal shelter donation and fun day at Greenbelt’s Animal Shelter. It was a day to donate an item for the shelter and in exchange to receive face painting, balloon animals, snow cones, lemonade or baked goods from the troop.

Visitors could also have the chance to meet some of the animals ready for adoption there including dogs, cats, kittens, puppies and, believe it or not, a guinea pig.

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter is located down a side street behind the police station which is at Crescent Road opposite Buddy Attick Lake Park. The tables and booths were in front of the shelter, just inside the shelter’s main gate. Shelter hours are normally Wednesday (4 to 7 p.m.), Saturdays (9 a.m. to noon) and by appointment but they stayed open later on Saturday for the fair.

The day was a big success. The fun day brought out a lot of extra visitors and contributions for the shelter and raised awareness of the shelter. The project was organized by Kaylee Romagna, Molly Noone-Meng, Rosie Harrington-Walton and Krissy Beauchamp with the help of Troop Leader Monica Mische as a service project to help earn credits toward achieving the Girl Scout Silver Award.

So, from the Girl Scouts of Troop 4816 and the Animal Shelter, “Thank you for all of your donations.”



Free Cooking Demo & Fresh Summer Foods This Week at the Greenbelt Farmers Market

This Sunday at 11 am, **local chef Rita Calvert** will give a free cooking demonstration on making grass-fed pork chops in a nectarine glaze, cooked up with fresh ingredients from the market. Watch and sample this yummy dish made by “The Grass-Fed Gourmet”!

While you’re here, enjoy the fantastic selection of summer fruits, vegetables, and herbs, as well as the eggs, goat cheese, seafood, meats, breads, ice creams, and other mouth-watering foods from local vendors. We’ll even have a **free craft project** for the kids!



Open 10 am to 2 pm Sundays at the corner of Crescent and Southway, behind the New Deal Cafe. For more information and directions, visit greenbeltfarmersmarket.org

In case you missed the organizing meeting for the *Old Greenbelt Mercantile* store on Tuesday night, here’s the pledge form:

Wanting to see this project succeed,

1. I will pledge a one-time gift of \$_____ to help start it.
2. I will buy \$_____ in stock
3. I will make an interest-free loan of \$_____ to be paid back if the store is successful.
4. I will work in the store ☐ part time ☐ full time ☐ on special occasions, and be paid in stock for the first 6 months.
5. ☐ I will buy hardware, arts and craft supplies, and pet and gardening supplies in the store whenever I can.
6. Here are the top 3 items I would like to buy at the store:

Name Contact Info.

Drop this off at 3 D Plateau Place
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NOTICES

“I thought they took the mercury out of children’s vaccines 10 years ago!” Nope. There were back-up supplies. Also, “trace” potentially harmful amounts of mercury remain today. Bill Norwood

90-HR CHILDCARE COURSE, Greenbelt Children’s Center. M/W, 6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Starts August 1. 4450 includes textbook. Deborah Wood, 301-576-3423.

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YARD SALES

YARD SALE – Sat., July 23, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. 121 Lastner Lane (Boxwood Village). Art supplies, art books, etc.

YARD SALE – 21 Ridge Rd. Sat., 10 – 2. Tools, assorted items.

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History of Race Is Explored at Museum

Race is a short word with a long history in America. What is race and how are people affected by it every day? “Race: Are We So Different?” explores the concept of race from scientific, historical and cultural perspectives. An exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History offers a powerful look at race and racism and challenges visitors to ask questions, think critically and talk about the issue and their own experiences.

The exhibit was developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota and runs through January 2012 in the second floor Special Exhibits Gallery

Hope Diamond Shown In a New Light

The Hope Diamond is now displayed in a temporary setting through November 18 on the Second Floor, Harry Winston Gallery of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The American people voted online for their favorite design and the winner is the dazzling necklace called “Embracing Hope,” giving a rare opportunity to view the Hope Diamond in a new light.

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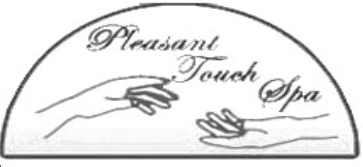
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Honeymoon Cottage - Rare single-level living in the heart of GHI. Enormous, fenced in lot. Remodeled home with walk-in shower. \$114,900
Bargain! - 3 bedroom GHI townhome with hardwood floors throughout. Backyard overlooks protected woodlands. Walking distance to Center. \$115,000
Block Townhome - Corner Lot - 3 br GHI home with vinyl siding. Completely remodeled top to bottom! Large floor-plan with extra storage. Huge Yard!
Townhome With Attached Garage - Owners have installed new carpet in this 3 bedroom block townhome with garage and driveway. Estate Sale - \$129,900
Great Price - Great Home! - 2 bedroom GHI townhome within walking distance to Roosevelt Center. Very nice condition at an amazing price! \$89,990
Block Townhome With Addition - 2 bedroom GHI home with laundry room addition and **GARAGE**. 'Library End of Town'. Call now to see this great home!
2 Bedroom GHI Townhome - Great front and back yard, updated bathroom, built-in shelves, ceiling fans, full-sized washer & dryer and more. \$118,000
Amazing Value - 3 Br townhome with an extra-large deck that overlooks protected woodlands. Fresh paint, new carpet, modern kit. & bath. \$114,900
Townhome With Addition - 3 br. GHI unit with laundry room addition, fenced backyard, hardwood downstairs, carpeted 2nd level, ceiling fans. \$123,900
Townhome With Addition - 2 br. GHI home with soundproofing. Living room addition, updated kit. & bath, new paint, shed & ceiling fan. 300 sq. ft. patio.
Two Bedroom Townhome - New appliances, countertop, cabinets, floor tile, doors, paint, carpet, light fixtures, bathroom surround & more \$107,900

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Greenbelt Homes, City Council Convene over Issues of Concern

by Carol Griffith

On June 13 the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), perhaps the city’s largest stakeholder. All council members were present, as well as City Manager Michael McLaughlin.

Representing GHI were Board of Director President Tokey Boswell, Vice President Laura Moore and board members Bill Jones, David Morse, Irwin Wartell and Ed James: Two staff members, General Manager Gretchen Overdurff and Assistant General Manager Eldon Ralph, also were at the meeting. (Overdurff will retire at the end of the year and Ralph will succeed her as general manager.) Four GHI members were also present. The meeting was a thoughtful discussion on how the groups are cooperating to meet challenges.

After a general discussion of plans for Greenbelt’s 75th anniversary celebration, Lt. Carl Schinner of the Greenbelt Police Department described crime trends in and around GHI. Reporting “no alarming trends” in the center city, Schinner said crime numbers are down throughout the county. There had been six burglaries in GHI and several robberies in the center city, he said.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan asked if the recently increased amount of graffiti in Greenbelt had affected GHI. After some discussion about the prevalence of graffiti in certain areas of GHI, especially around 23 Court Ridge, Boswell said GHI members “tend to be complacent.” He requested a message about crime that could be conveyed to members.

Schinner volunteered, “If you see something, call the police.” Mayor Judith Davis then added, “Lock your doors and cars.” She noted that while campaigning, she noticed many GHI unit doors had been unlocked when no one responded to her knock.

Stream Stabilization

Terri Hruby, Greenbelt’s assistant director of planning, provided an update on the stream stabilization project near Greenhill and Hillside Roads. She said a permit for a bridge is in process and that she will involve GHI Director of Maintenance Matt Berres as plans progress. Overdurff asked how residents affected by the construction would be informed of plans and Hruby said notices in the News Review and letters to members were planned.

Overdurff raised the issue

of Greenbelt’s relationship with Pepco, noting more power outages this year. McLaughlin said the city has been informed that Pepco is strengthening feeder lines and making improvements at their call center. The company has also been trimming trees (although not in Greenbelt) and replacing meters.

To the frequent question about placing electrical lines underground, McLaughlin said Pepco contends the project would be too impractical and expensive.

Cooling Centers

Boswell asked if the city planned to open cooling centers, noting a few days already of temperatures over 100 degrees. McLaughlin said residents are directed to go to the community center, library or municipal building to seek respite during business hours. He noted that in Franklin Park, Springhill Lake Elementary School had opened once as a cooling center but that only a few teenagers made use of the facility.

Overdurff raised the issue of GHI’s and the city’s relationship with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and described a current problem.

In 2007, she said, WSSC had agreed to replace water pipes in GHI in four phases. In 2009 WSSC proposed to relocate meters to a central location rather than near each unit and require GHI to assume responsibility for pipes from that central location to each unit.

This plan contradicts a 1958 agreement between the city and WSSC, she said, in which WSSC had agreed to maintain the entire water and sewer system in GHI.

GHI believes the new plan would cause maintenance and financial burdens and has decided to retain an attorney with a history of working with WSSC. The attorney has written a letter to WSSC, copied to Greenbelt’s state and county representatives, requesting a meeting between GHI and WSSC. So far no meeting has been scheduled.

Davis, while appreciating the information, questioned whether the issue pertained to the city. But James and Ralph replied that, under the current proposal, curbs and sidewalks might be damaged or an easement required. After some discussion, the issue was directed to McLaughlin with instructions to work with Overdurff.

Snow Removal

The group then discussed whether the city, GHI or residents

are responsible for shoveling snow from the sidewalk system within GHI in case of a large snowfall. Ralph said he had delivered maps of areas of GHI’s responsibility to Public Works.

Discussion then turned to the number of significant errors contained in recent tax assessments concerning the value of GHI units. Councilmember Leta Mach asked if GHI planned to inform the state of these errors.

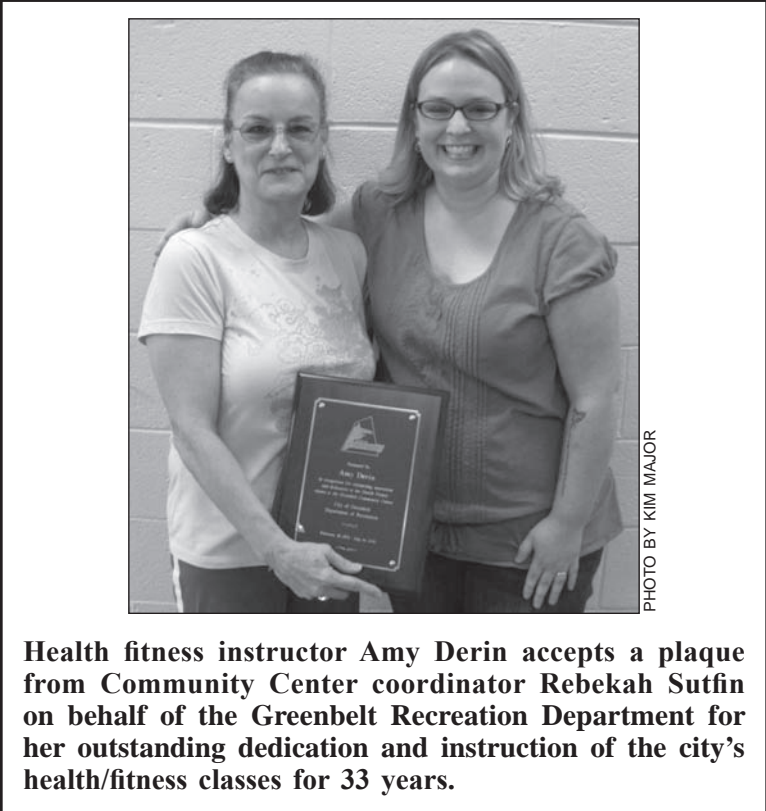
Boswell said GHI had informed members of the importance of applying for the homestead tax credit. Letters had also been mailed to members regarding expected change in taxes and would hold meetings for members whose taxes have increased to discuss the appeal process.

Overdurff said a group of volunteers has been gathering correct information to provide the state. She said she believed the state would be willing to correct the erroneous information.

Jordan complimented GHI on its new website and occasional page in the News Review. To his inquiry about sales, Overdurff said they are “very slow,” with approximately 60 homes on the market.

Boswell ended the session with general news of the cooperative – Overdurff’s impending retirement and a brief overview of the pilot project studying possible upgrades to the heating systems, insulation and windows of GHI units. He said this is a period of “uncertainty” for the cooperative.

Council members agreed that the outlook for the general economy was equally uncertain.



Health fitness instructor Amy Derin accepts a plaque from Community Center coordinator Rebekah Sutfin on behalf of the Greenbelt Recreation Department for her outstanding dedication and instruction of the city’s health/fitness classes for 33 years.

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Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

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Fellowship Hour after service - Lunch is served
Tuesdays Bible Study: 7:00pm

The church has a *Thrift Store* program where we provide FREE non-perishable food items for those in need of food.

“And I will restore to you the years that locust hath eaten...” Joel 2:25

Award Winning Photos Of Nature on Display

View the winners of the 2010 Nature’s Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History through September 25. The award honors the best amateur and professional nature photographers from around the world. These portraits of plants, animals and people celebrate the beauty of nature, while recognizing the importance of environmental stewardship.

Tools of Scientists Explored in Exhibit

Scientists at the National Museum of Natural History rely on special tools, skills and technologies to examine the world’s diversity of life and culture up close and in great detail. Explore alongside museum scientists as they use their super-powered vision to observe, document and analyze the natural world and global cultures. The exhibit, More Than Meets the Eye, in the first floor Special Exhibits Gallery, opens Saturday, July 23 and runs through October 2012.

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